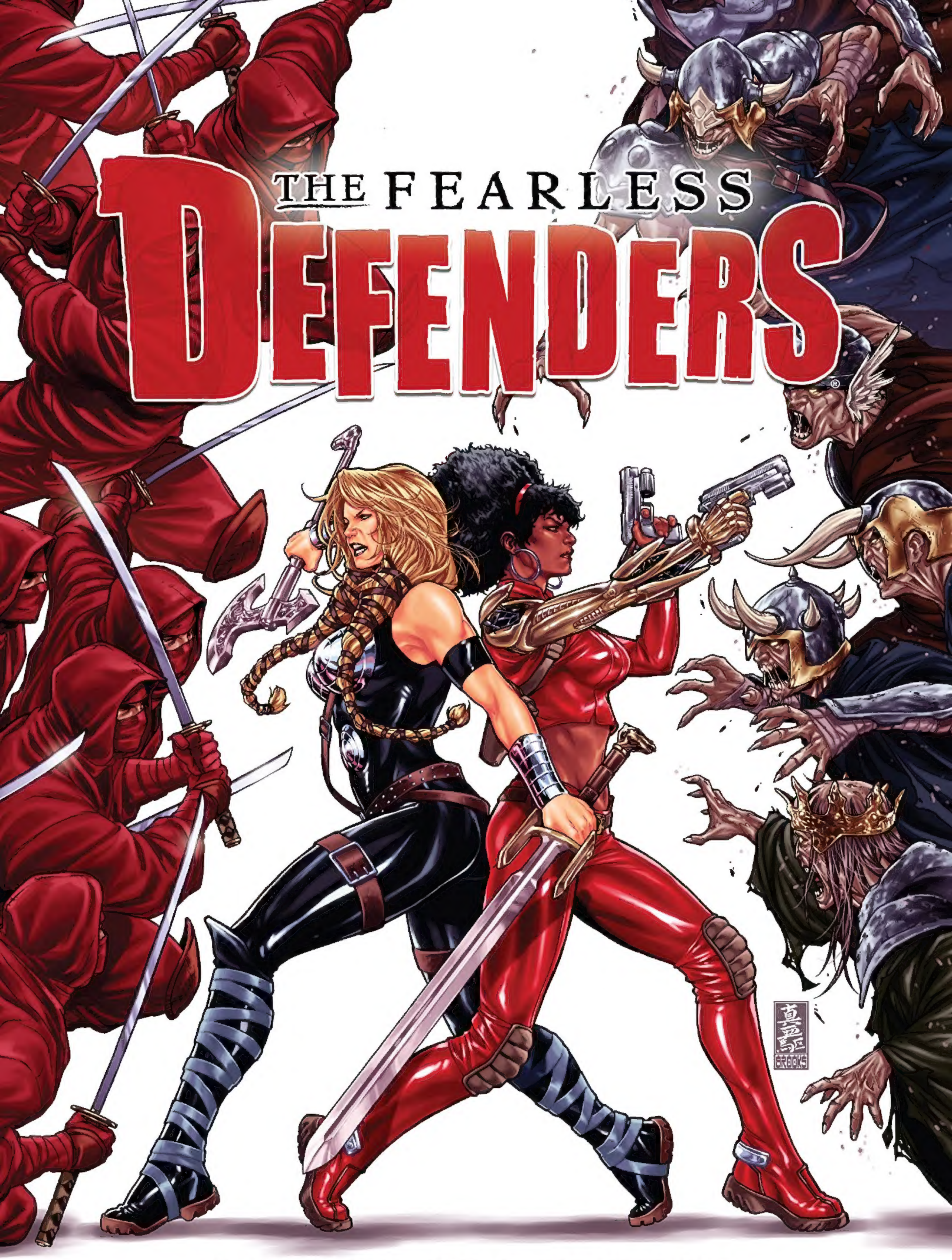
THE FEARLESS DEFENDERS



DOOM MAIDENS

BUNN SLINEY

NEW TEAM! NEW VILLAINS! NEW CREATORS!

Valkyrie, Misty Knight, Dani Moonstar and Warrior Woman are the Fearless Defenders! And not since Power Man and Iron Fist has an unlikely duo kicked this much — well, you know. Writer Cullen Bunn (*Venom, Sixth Gun, Fear Itself: The Fearless*) and new-to-Marvel artist Will Sliney (*MacGyver, Star Wars*) bring you the book that everyone is going to be talking about — and that's a promise! Who are the Doom Maidens, and what sadistic new villain is pulling their strings? Come for the banter, stay for the surprises!

Collecting *Fearless Defenders #1-6*, written by Cullen Bunn and illustrated by Will Sliney.

To access exclusive content on the Marvel Augmented Reality App — including art evolution and creator videos — look for the AR icon throughout the book!

App content available on most camera-enabled Apple® iOS and Android™ devices. App content subject to change and availability.

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MARVEL

THE FEARLESS

DEFENDERS

DOOM MAIDENS

THE FEARLESS DEFENDERS

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BROOKS

AS A GIRL, I STOOD UPON SEA CLIFFS AND WATCHED STORMS SWEEP IN WITH THE WAVES.

THE SEERS WARNED THAT STORMS MIGHT BRING *ILL OMENS* WITH THE WIND AND RAIN...WITH THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

BUT I DID NOT *LISTEN.*

VALKYRIE.

LAST SHIELDMAIDEN AND DEFENDER OF ASGARDIA.

AFTER ALL, PORTENTS... FOR GOOD OR ILL...ARE *NATURAL.*

NATURAL... AND EASY TO *IGNORE.*

AND SO...I KEEP MY EYES SHUT...AND TELL MYSELF THAT I TASTE--

RAIN.

ONLY THE RAIN.

BOOM

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.

HURRY UP! GET THESE CRATES SECURED!

DAMN RAIN'S MAKING EVERYTHING *SLIPPERY!*

WASTE OF TIME, IF YOU ASK ME.

THEY *AIN'T* GONNA SHOW.

NO WAY THEY'LL SHOW, NOT IN *THIS* WEATHER.

SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

ONLY PEOPLE WHO'D BE CAUGHT *DEAD* IN THIS ARE--

GUN DOWN. HANDS IN THE AIR.

DAMN.

DUNNO WHO YOU ARE... DUNNO WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR...

...BUT THEY SENT YOU ON A *SUICIDE RUN...*

YOU MADE A BIG--

SZZT-KRDDD

AAAGH!

SH-KRAK

EEEAAAGGGH!

KA-THOOM

ALL RIGHT, FELLAS.

THE *CONCLUSIONS* YOU DRAW NOW...THE *DECISIONS* YOU MAKE... ARE GONNA DETERMINE HOW *EMBARRASSED* YOU ARE WHEN YOU WAKE UP TOMORROW MORNING.

BECAUSE YOU CAN EITHER ASSUME MY NINJA-LIKE STEALTH SKILLS AREN'T UP TO SNUFF...

OR YOU CAN ASSUME I *PLANNED* ON YOU HEARING ME...

...BECAUSE I REALLY WANT TO KICK YOUR @#$%.

MISTY KNIGHT.

BADASS PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR. ALSO BIONIC.

WHACK

SHRAK

HAI!

Rhrrrllgg!

WUMP

CHOK

HOOPFF!

RUN N' F!

KRKRK

WHAT...

...A LOAD...

...OF JUNK.

YOU BOYS LOST ALL THOSE TEETH AND FRACTURE-FREE BONES OVER *THIS?*

SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR A BUNCH OF--

RUMMBLE--

--TRINKETS.

UGLY TRINKETS.

B-BOOM

OKAY.

WHAT NOW--

CHUP-CHUP-CH-CHUP-CHUP

WE'VE GOT *EYES* ON THE ARTIFACTS.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE BEAT US TO THE PUNCH AND ATTACKED THE CREW.

WE'VE GOT AN *UNKNOWN QUANTITY* ON THE FIELD.

CHUP-CHUP-CHUP-CHUP-CHUP

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PROCEED, MS. LEFAY?

YOU *KNOW* HOW I PREFER TO HANDLE *VARIABLES*, MR. RAVEN.

AFTER ALL...

...THE SHARKS NEED THEIR *CHUM*, DON'T THEY?

BRAKKA-BRAKKA-

BRAKKA-BRAK-BRAKKA

VIP V-VIP VIP

SHE'S GOT SOME SORT OF REPULSOR TECH!

WHAT AM I PAYING YOU FOR, MR. RAVEN?

UP THE ANTE, IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE.

MA'AM.

BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA V-VIP VIP VIP-VIP

OH--

#$%@ MUST PAY!

VRRROOOOSH

SHAME.

GIRL'S GOT MOXIE.

KRA-CHOOOM

THE *PRIMARY* TARGET HAS BEEN SECURED, MA'AM, BUT SOME OF THE LESSER RELICS WERE *LOST*...

I TAKE *FULL RESPONSIBILITY.*

I SHOULD HAVE RUN SCENARIOS FOR THIS KIND OF INTERFERENCE.

DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP, DEAR BOY.

I'M A LITTLE *DISAPPOINTED,* YES...

...BUT I'M SURE I'LL FEEL BETTER ONCE THE *MASSACRE* BEGINS.

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST, THE NEXT DAY.

YOU LED ME TO BELIEVE I'D BE DEALING WITH A RAGTAG *SMUGGLING* OPERATION...

...NOT HIGHLY TRAINED *MERCENARIES* ARMED WITH #$%# ROCKET LAUNCHERS!

I HAVE HALF A MIND TO CHARGE YOU A *HAZARD* FEE.

DR. ANNABELLE RIGGS.

GREW UP WATCHING A LOT OF INDIANA JONES.

MISTY...WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER HOW LONG?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN AFFORD TO PAY YOU WHAT WE AGREED ON IN THE FIRST PLACE?

NOT FUNNY.

RELAX.

THE MUSEUM HASN'T STIFFED YOU ON YOUR RETAINER YET... *ESPECIALLY* IF YOU BRING US PIECES LIKE THIS.

IT'S WORTH SOMETHING?

WEREN'T YOU JUST COMPLAINING ABOUT *ROCKET LAUNCHERS?*

PEOPLE DON'T USE THAT KIND OF HARDWARE UNLESS THEY MEAN BUSINESS.

YEAH.

I'D SAY IT'S WORTH A BIT.

SOME PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO PAY BIG BUCKS FOR A PIECE OF HISTORY.

EVEN MORE FOR A PIECE OF *SECRET* HISTORY.

AND THIS IS *OLD*...OLDER THAN ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN...CERTAINLY OLDER THAN ANYTHING I'LL FIND AT A DIG LIKE THIS.

AND *TWICE* AS EXCITING.

I *THINK* IT'S A REPRESENTATION OF AN ASGARDIAN MESSENGER SPIRIT...

...A HARBINGER... WHO BRINGS BOTH GOOD AND NOT-SO-GOOD NEWS.

BUT THE DESIGN IS *STRANGE*... OFF...

YOU *DO* REALIZE THERE IS A PIECE OF *ASGARD* IN OKLAHOMA, RIGHT?

COULDN'T YOU JUST GO KNOCK ON THEIR DOOR INSTEAD OF DIGGING AROUND IN THE DIRT AND CHASING DOWN SMUGGLERS?

THAT WOULDN'T BE MUCH FUN, WOULD IT?

BESIDES...THERE'S VALUE IN US MERE MORTALS DISCOVERING THINGS FOR OURSELVES.

IF WE ASK THE *GODS* EVERY QUESTION, HOW WILL WE--

WAIT A SEC.

THERE'S A *SEAM* HERE.

CLICK

ᛗᛁ ᛗᛁᚿ ᛗᚱᛇ ᛗᛘᚷᚷ ᛗᚱᛇ

WHAT DID YOU DO?

I DIDN'T... I DON'T KNOW...

IT'S...

IT'S LIKE A MUSIC BOX!

THAT'S NO *MUSIC* I'VE EVER HEARD.

TURN IT OFF!

MY CAMERA!

I SHOULD BE *RECORDING* THIS!

ANNABELLE...

WHAT DID YOU SAY YOU WERE SURVEYING HERE?

A GRAVE...

A MASS VIKING GRAVE...

YEAH.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS *AFRAID* YOU SAID.

STAY HERE.

TRY TO *MUZZLE* THAT THING.

SATAN CLAW!

2.0!

SATAN-CLAW.

STARK INDUSTRIES CYBERNETIC REPLICA. STRENGTH ENHANCEMENT. ENERGY DISBURSEMENT.

FASHION PLUS FUNCTION.

SLASH

ONE AT A TIME OR ALL AT ONCE.

MAKES NO NEVER MIND TO ME.

STEP UP.

AW, C'MON.

WHAT--

WHIRR

DOWN, ARAGORN!

I AM NOT ALONE IN ANSWERING THE CALL!

THERE'S A GIANT FLYING HORSE BEHIND ME, ISN'T THERE?

THE DEAD HAVE GROWN RESTLESS!

I WILL SILENCE THEM!

KRAK-T

HA!

HEROIC

STAND DOWN, KNAVES!

BEGONE TO THE HEL THAT SPAWNED YOU!

ALL RIGHT!

TIME TO PUT SOME DEAD VIKINGS *BACK* IN THE DIRT!

WHY DO YOU TALK LIKE THAT?

WHATEVER WORKS.

THOK

SHRAK

VERILY.

THEY'RE NOT BACKING DOWN.

DON'T THESE THINGS KNOW WHEN THEY'RE *BEATEN?*

THEY'RE ALREADY *DEAD.*

THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE *NOTHING* LEFT TO LOSE.

STILL... THEY ARE BUT SHADOWS...

...STIRRED LIKE ASH FROM A FIRE...DISTURBED BY...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS THING'S TRYING TO TELL US, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE AN--

--OFF SWITCH.

THAT SONG!

SHRAK

WHKSS-TTR

OH!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ARE YOU INJURED?

Y-YOU...

...YOU'RE A *VALKYRIE*...

...A *REAL* SHIELDMAIDEN... A GATHERER OF FALLEN WARRIORS...

ᛗᚹᚾᛗ ᚾᛗ ᛈᚹ ᚱ ᛗᛉᛈᚷ ᛗᚹᚠᛗ ᚲᚹᚾᚱᛗ ᚹᚾᛗ ᚾᛗ ᛗᚹᚱ ᛗᛉᛈᚷ

DR. ANNABELLE RIGGS.

LIKES GIRLS.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

WAIT!

THAT'S *PRICELESS!*

IT IS THE *SONG* THAT CALLS THESE WRAITHS.

IT IS THE SONG THAT... *LIES.*

THEY'RE VANISHING.

WHAT DID YOU DO?

ᛞᛒᚠᚾᛗᚹᛗ ᛇᛈ ᛗᚹᚾᛗ ᚾᛗ ᛗᚹᚱ ᚴᚴᚱᛊᚺᚺ

AND SO...

NO, OFFENSE, "GATHERER OF FALLEN WARRIORS," BUT WERE YOU PHONING IT IN ON THE DAY THESE GUYS DIED OR WHAT?

THE VALKYRIOR COLLECTED THE SOULS OF THE HONORED DEAD...USHERING THEM TO VALHALLA...TO PARADISE.

THESE WARRIORS...THEY WERE BRIGANDS, MURDERERS, AND THIEVES, ONE AND ALL.

THIS WAS A PLACE OF GREAT SHAME.

I MUST CONSULT THE ALL-MOTHER.

WAIT A SECOND.

HOLD ON.

EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED FOR IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS IS GONE.

THERE ARE PEOPLE STEALING...BY FORCE...ANCIENT ASGARDIAN ARTIFACTS.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO SPEAK TO THE GODS... I...

I'M COMING WITH YOU.

I CANNOT BE BURDENED BY A MORTAL'S PRESENCE.

FAIR ENOUGH.

BUT...IF YOU LEAVE WITHOUT ME... I'LL DIG UP SOME OTHER ARTIFACT TO SUMMON YOU...

...AND MAYBE NEXT TIME, IT'LL MAKE YOU DANCE LIKE A PUPPET ON A STRING, TOO.

...

WELL COUNTERED.

WHAT WAS ALL THAT YOU SAID ABOUT DISCOVERING THINGS FOR YOURSELF?

SHUT IT.

WELL, YOU'LL NEED A BODYGUARD... AND DID YOU SEE HOW MUCH DAMAGE I RAINED DOWN ON THOSE VIKING GHOSTS?

I MEAN...YOU DID ALL RIGHT, TOO...Y'KNOW... WITH THE SWOONING AND THE KISSING.

SHUT IT.

YOUR LEVITY IS GOOD.

BUT I WARN YOU... THIS JOURNEY WILL NOT BE PLEASANT.

THE MESSENGER SANG OF THE BLIGHTED HOST...

"...OF SLAUGHTER AND CARRION...

"...OF FILTH AND VERMIN...DECEIT AND INSANITY...

"...OF TORTURE AND SEDUCTION AND...

"...OF RAGE.

"IT SAID THE DOOMMAIDENS WERE RISING."

AND IT SAID IT WAS MY FAULT.

32675/78459 Asst.

THE FEARLESS

DEFENDERS

Misty Knight, Valkyrie, and others sold separately

DANI MOONSTAR

Includes bow, quiver and crown!

⚠ **WARNING:**

CHOKING HAZARD-Small parts.
Not for children under 3 years.

SAN FRANCISCO.
1128 MISSION STREET.

HUSTLE! HUSTLE!

IN AND OUT--10 MINUTES!

THE GIRL'S FRIENDS ARE OTHERWISE *OCCUPIED.*

COVERING FOR SICK COWORKERS... INVESTIGATING HIDDEN CODES IN ONLINE GAMES...FOLLOWING UP ON RUMORS OF TECHNO-ORGANIC LIFE BLOSSOMING IN INDIA.

THE VERY BEST *DISTRACTIONS* MONEY CAN BUY.

TARGET IS *ALONE.*

SMASH

REMEMBER... ACCURACY WITH THESE TRANQ DARTS IS DIMINISHED.

BUT WE ONLY NEED TO TAG HER *ONCE*.

CHILDS... LEE...

YOU TWO FINISH SWEEPING THIS FLOOR.

THE REST OF US WILL TAKE THE UPSTAIRS.

THE WAY WE CAME BUSTING IN... THE GIRL'S PROBABLY *SCARED WITLESS*... HIDING UNDER HER BED.

HOOYAH.

AAARRGH!

THUNK

WHHP

WHHP

WH-WHHP

LET ME GUESS.

WHATEVER PASSES FOR RELIABLE INTEL IN THE JACKBOOT COMMUNITY SAID I'D BE AN ***EASY TARGET.***

IN A WORLD FULL OF EYE BEAMS AND TELEPATHY AND ADAMANTIUM CLAWS, I'M ***JUST*** A GIRL.

NO SUPER-POWERS.

NOTHING SPECIAL.

BET YOU FEEL KINDA ***STUPID*** NOW, HUH?

DANI MOONSTAR.

LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS. NO LONGER A MUTANT HERSELF. THAT TAKES GRIT.

HUP!

WASTE HER!

RR-FF-FT-FT-FT-FT-FT-FT

WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!

WE HAVE A MAN DOWN!

REPEAT! WE ARE UNDER--

I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.

ON IT!

NOW STOP CLUTTERING MY AIRWAVES WITH YOUR WHINING AND FINISH THE JOB.

PF-FT-FT-FT-FT-FT-FT

THAK THAK THAK

UNF!

THOK

RE-FE-FE-FT-FT-FT

AKK!

I'M... I'M HIT... OH...

GGGGGGGG

I GOT HER.

SMACK

HEY!

UNF!

SNAK

STAND DOWN, POCAHONTAS!

LOOKS LIKE YOU BROKE YOUR BOW.

YOU'RE OUT OF OPTIONS. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE YOU CAN--

CRACK!!

ALL RIGHT.

OHH

LET'S YOU AND ME HAVE A LITTLE TALK ABOUT YOUR BOSS.

RFT

HHT!

THAT WOULD BE *ME.*

UNNNH...

MR. RAVEN.

KICKS PUPPIES ON COMMAND. ENJOYS HIS JOB.

LET'S WRAP THIS UP.

GET HER IN THE VAN.

WE'VE GOT LIGHTS COMING ON IN A FEW HOUSES.

LOOKS LIKE WE WOKE SOME OF THE NEIGHBORS.

ONCE MOONSTAR IS *SECURED,* KNOCK ON A FEW DOORS, SPREAD SOME *GOOD-WILL.*

NO WITNESSES.

BROXTON, OKLAHOMA.

IT'S *SOMETHING*, ISN'T IT?

WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE ALIENS, AND MEN FROM ATLANTIS, AND DINOSAURS ARE ALMOST EVERYDAY OCCURRENCES.

BUT PEOPLE STILL GET EXCITED OVER A *WINGED HORSE.*

A VALKYRIE'S STEED IS A *GLORIOUS* SIGHT, EVEN IN THE MOST AMAZING OF TIMES.

YEAH...

SO YOU SAID WHILE YOU WERE TELEPORTING US THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.

UGH!

DON'T EVEN *MENTION* TELEPORTATION. I'M NOT SURE MY STOMACH CAN TAKE IT!

DR. ANNABELLE RIGGS.

ARCHEOLOGIST. WOULD TRADE THE KABWE SKULL FOR SOME DRAMAMINE.

AND STILL...IN THIS GREAT BIG MARVELOUS WORLD OF OURS... THERE IS ONE *UNIVERSAL TRUTH.*

YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND THE BEST COFFEE AT A GREASY SPOON.

MISTY KNIGHT.

BIONIC PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR. DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF DECAF.

I HAVE HEARD OF THESE... HEROES...WHO WOULD RATHER SHARE A MEAL THAN AN ADVENTURE.

I DID NOT TAKE YOU FOR ONE OF THEM.

VALKYRIE.

A...UHM...VALKYRIE. NOT REALLY A BREAKFAST PERSON.

I GET IT, OKAY?

WE'RE IN A HURRY TO FIGURE OUT IF THIS PROPHECY OF *IMPENDING DOOM* HOLDS WATER OR NOT.

HELL, I *VOLUNTEERED* TO COME ALONG, DIDN'T I?

IT JUST...HITS ME SOMETIMES, Y'KNOW?

NO MATTER HOW BIG I *IMAGINE* THE WORLD IS...

...IT'LL STILL TAKE ME BY SURPRISE IF I STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT.

I JUST NEED A MOMENT.

THAT'S ALL.

A MOMENT.

ELSEWHERE.

OPEN YOUR EYES, MISS MOONSTAR.

I ASSURE YOU, FEIGNING UNCONSCIOUSNESS WILL NOT AFFORD YOU ANY TIME TO PLOT AN *ESCAPE.*

I CAN *APPRECIATE* THE EFFORT, BUT--TRUST ME--- IT'S *WASTED.*

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

WHERE AM I?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

SEE? ISN'T THIS MUCH NICER?

ONCE WE DISMISS WITH THE CHARADES AND SCHEMING, WE CAN HAVE A PLEASANT DISCUSSION LIKE TWO SENSIBLE WOMEN WHO *RESPECT* ONE ANOTHER.

AS TO *WHERE* YOU ARE, DEAR CHILD, I PROMISE IT'S AS FAR FROM *ANY* POSITION TO ASK QUESTIONS AS YOU CAN POSSIBLY HOPE TO BE.

AS TO *WHO* I AM, I CAN'T SEE HOW THAT POSSIBLY MATTERS.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY, YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

CAROLINE Le FEY.

DANI DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW HER.

AND YOUR REMAINING TIME ON THIS EARTH ISN'T SUFFICIENT FOR THE TWO OF US TO BECOME--

--WHAT DO YOU GIRLS SAY--

--B.F.FS.

LADY...I MIGHT NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CAN *JUST* KIDNAP ME, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING.

I'VE GOT *FRIENDS* WHO--

TSK TSK TSK.

DON'T, SWEETIE. JUST *DON'T.*

IT'S *INSULTING* TO BOTH OF US.

YOUR FRIENDS ARE BIG AND MEAN. MY FRIENDS ARE BIG AND MEAN.

AND IF YOUR FRIENDS HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THEM, THEY'RE WETTING THEMSELVES RIGHT THIS VERY SECOND.

WHAT ARE--

AH AH AH.

NO POSITION FOR QUESTIONS, REMEMBER?

TELL ME WHY I'M HERE.

TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.

A STATEMENT.

A COMMAND.

THAT'S MUCH BETTER...AND MUCH MORE SUITED TO YOUR STATION IN LIFE...REGARDLESS OF HOW SHORT THAT LIFE MIGHT BE.

YOU'RE HERE, DEAR, BECAUSE I *NEED* YOU.

AND WHAT I WANT IS SIMPLE.

I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.

I WANT TO BECOME A *VALKYRIE.*

FSSSH-CLICK

ASGARDIA.

I AM THE LAST OF MY KIND... A SHIELDMAIDEN OF ODIN.

BUT I WAS BORN BRUNHILDE OF WRLSTEAD ARMS... A PRINCESS...A CLUELESS CHILD...

...CHOSEN BY THE ALL-FATHER AS A SYMBOL OF PARADISE AFTER HONORABLE DEATH...

AND THE TRUTH IS, I'VE *NEVER* FELT AT HOME AMONG THE *GODS*...

...ANY MORE THAN I'VE EVER FELT AT PEACE AMONG *MORTALS*.

GODS CAN GO ASTRAY AS OFT AS HUMANS. *THIS* I HAVE IN COMMON WITH THEM BOTH.

AND IN MY DELAY, I HAVE BROUGHT SHAME TO A POST I HOLD MOST DEAR.

MAKE HASTE. IT IS UNWISE TO BE LATE TO AN AUDIENCE WITH THE *ALL-MOTHER*.

YOU WANTED TO COME WITH ME. DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET.

YEAH, YEAH.

I'LL GET THERE WHEN I GET THERE.

HEY. UH, VALKYRIE.

I WAS HOPING WE'D HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK--

NOW IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY.

SPEAK, ANNABELLE.

IT'S ABOUT... WELL...ABOUT *BEFORE.*

BEFORE?

THE...

THE *KISS?*

I JUST--

DO NOT DWELL ON IT.

I HAVE LIVED FOR MILLENNIA.

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE RESCUED--MAN OR WOMAN--WHO HAS REWARDED ME WITH A KISS?

IT IS A SMALL MATTER.

RIIIIIGHT.

IT MEANT *NOTHING.*

YOU'RE NOT HITTING ON THE *DEMIGODDESS* AGAIN, ARE YOU?

MISTY... I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND...

...NO AMOUNT OF *KUNG FU* IS GONNA SAVE YOU WHEN I TOSS YOU OVER THE SIDE OF ASGARDIA.

THESE ARE GRIM TIDINGS YOU BRING US, VALKYRIE.

THE *DOOM-MAIDENS* ARE A LONG-FORGOTTEN *NIGHTMARE.*

THEIR RETURN WILL BRING NAUGHT BUT MADNESS, DESTRUCTION, AND DEATH.

FREYJA, GAEA, AND IDUNN.

THE ALL-MOTHER.

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO *KNEEL,* TOO?

BECAUSE...I WENT TO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR MOST OF MY CHILDHOOD, AND THE TEACHERS NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING LIKE *THIS.*

THE SHIELD-MAIDENS OF ASGARD VANISHED MONTHS AGO.

BRUNHILDE... IT HAS BEEN YOUR *SACRED DUTY* TO ASSEMBLE THE HOST OF THE VALKYRIOR ONCE AGAIN.

MAYHAP YOUR FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS TASK HAS WROUGHT TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

WERE THERE NO *PORTENTS* OF TROUBLE AHEAD?

NONE THAT I RECOGNIZED.

SO...THIS "*BIG NASTY*" YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF YOU JUST GOT SOME SUPER HEROES TOGETHER FOR A GIRL'S NIGHT?

CALLING THE SHIELDMAIDENS TOGETHER HAS BEEN NO EASY FEAT.

THE MANDATE FROM THE ALL-MOTHER WAS CLEAR.

"I WAS TO CHOOSE WOMEN FROM THE REALM OF *MIDGARD* TO BECOME SYMBOLS OF HONOR AND VALOR AND COURAGE.

"I WOULD LEAD THEM INTO BATTLE... INTO DEATH.

"BUT I SAW NO ONE WHO WOULD LIVE UP TO THE STANDARD OF THE VALKYRIE.

"AND SO I *PONDERED* MY DECISION.

"I *DISTRACTED* MYSELF.

"I TRIED TO DECIDE WHAT IT *MEANT* TO BE A VALKYRIE."

OH, BWUNEHIWDA, YOU'RE SO WUVWEE.

YOU ARE NOT MEANT TO BE *ALONE.*

AND THE *ABSENCE* OF THE VALKYRIOR HAS CREATED A *VOID* IN THE NATURAL ORDER.

UNDER THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE DOOMMAIDENS COULD RISE TO FILL THIS VOID.

THEY WERE ODIN'S FIRST AND MOST POWERFUL SHIELDMAIDENS, BRUNHILDE...

"THEY WERE HIS MESSENGERS, HIS SPIES, AND HIS MOST DEADLY WARRIORS.

"UNTIL SOMETHING THEY SAW ON THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH THE DEPTHS OF SPACE...CHANGED THEM...*CORRUPTED* THEM.

"WHEN THEY RETURNED, THEY WERE *GHASTLY MONSTROSITIES*, THE KILLERS OF MORTALS AND GODS ALIKE.

"EMBODIMENTS OF CARRION AND SLAUGHTER...FILTH AND VERMIN... DECEIT AND INSANITY...TORTURE AND SEDUCTION AND RAGE."

HAD ODIN HIMSELF NOT STOPPED THEM, THEY WOULD HAVE *SCOURED* ALL OF THE NINE REALMS.

AND THE OMENS ARE TRUE.

THEY *ARE* RETURNING TO FINISH THEIR WORK.

HELA!

QUEEN OF THE UNDERWORLD.

THE DEAD STIR! THE INFERNAL REALM THREATENS TO SPIT OUT ITS DEMONS!

THIS *REEKS* OF YOUR PLOTTING!

WHATEVER TREASONS YOU BIRTH AGAINST ASGARDIA...AGAINST MIDGARD...YOU'LL *REGRET* YOUR MEDDLING!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DEALING WITH, NURSLING?

I AM THE *MOTHER OF DEATH!*

AND I DO *NOT* MEDDLE.

HA!

SHRANK

WHOLE WORLD OF SUPER HEROES AT THE READY...

...BUT METAL BREASTPLATE BARBIE CAN'T FIND ANYONE WORTHY TO STAND BY HER SIDE.

AND NOW WE HAVE TO FIGHT A GODDESS.

SHRRKKK

AH!

BANISH YOUR SWORD BACK TO THE HEAVENLY REALM, VALKYRIE!

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO WIN THIS BATTLE!

NO MORE THAN YOU CAN HOPE TO DIVERT YOUR *GUILT* TOWARD ME!

HAI!

WHAT'S THIS?

INSTEAD OF GATHERING YOUR SHIELDMAIDENS, YOU PASS YOUR TIME LIKE A DRUNK, LOUT, AND HARLOT...

...AND THEN, AT THE LAST MINUTE, YOU CHOOSE THIS *FEEBLE CREATURE* AS A VALKYRIOR?

YAAAAA!

WHAM

UNGH!

I'VE CHOSEN NO ONE!

NOR DO I NEED THEM TO SEND YOU BACK TO HEL!

GNATS!

I'M PESTERED BY INSIGNIFICANT GNATS!

HKK!

ANNABELLE... JUST...

...JUST STAY OUT OF THIS...

I CAN'T DO THAT, MISTY.

I HAVE TO MAKE MYSELF USEFUL SOME--

STAY YOUR HAND.

THOUGH YOUR ACTIONS ARE *FOOLISH*, YOUR SENTIMENT IS ADMIRABLE.

IT WOULD BE A CRUELTY OF FATE IF YOU FORCED ME TO *SMITE* YOU.

AFTER ALL, WE'VE ONLY JUST MET.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR *INACTION* HAS WROUGHT, VALKYRIE?

YOU HAVE SOWN THE SEEDS OF THE ALL-*DESTRUCTION.*

AND TO SET THINGS RIGHT, I'VE BROUGHT MY OWN WARRIOR WOMAN!

HIPPOLYTA.

WARHAWK OF ARES. HATES BEING CALLED WARRIOR WOMAN.

THE FEARLESS
DEFENDERS

PETULANT CHILD!

HOW DARE YOU RAISE ARMS AGAINST ME WITHOUT CAUSE?

HELA.
QUEEN OF THE DEAD.

YOU ARE A TREACHEROUS HAG OF A GODDESS.

WHEN HAVE YOU EVER SIMPLY APPEARED WITHOUT WARRANTING A VIOLENT WELCOME?

I AM TRUTHFULLY THE ONLY SAGE IN A REALM OF MULE-HEADED FOOLS!

THOUGH ASGARDIA VEXES ME, I WILL SAVE IT... AND THE PISSANT WORLD UPON WHICH IT SQUATS...JUST THE SAME.

IF I MUST EVISCERATE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO PROVE MY NOBLE INTENTIONS, SO BE IT.

VALKYRIE.
MOUTHY EVEN WHEN SHE'S DOWN AND OUT.

SO...THIS IS ASGARDIA.

MY FATHER DIED HERE.

HIPPOLYTA.
DAUGHTER OF ARES.

SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

BUT IF YOU AND YOUR BOSS LADY DON'T STAND DOWN, YOU'RE--

MISTY KNIGHT.
BIONIC, KUNG FU PRIVATE EYE.

YES.

PLEASE DO ATTACK ME... SO I CAN WREST YOUR CLOCKWORK ARM FROM YOUR BODY AND BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH IT.

I'LL SEND YOU BRUISED AND WHIMPERING TO JOIN WHATEVER HAREM MY FATHER HAS CREATED FOR HIMSELF IN THE AFTERLIFE.

ENOUGH!

WHY ARE YOU HERE, HELA?

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT.

THE ALL-MOTHER.

RULERS OF ASGARDIA.

HMPH.

VERY WELL.

I BRING THE ALL-MOTHER A WARNING.

ONE I IMPLORE YOU TO HEED.

YOU MUST NOT SEND YOUR VALKYRIE TO CONFRONT THE DOOM MAIDENS.

DOING SO INVITES NAUGHT SAVE DISASTER.

IT IS MY FAULT THIS THREAT HAS TAKEN ROOT.

IT IS MY DUTY TO SET IT RIGHT.

DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS A SIMPLE TASK?

IF THIS WERE SUCH AN UNDEMANDING CHALLENGE, WHY WOULD I COME HERE?

WHY WOULD I NOT DISPATCH MY DISIR TO ANNIHILATE OUR ENEMIES?

"EVEN BEFORE THE LIBRARIES OF ASGARDIA BURNED, THE DOOM MAIDENS WERE A MYSTERY.

"THEY ARE NIGHTMARES FROM WHICH GODLINGS WAKE SCREAMING IN THEIR BEDS.

"CRUEL AND MERCILESS AND UNSTOPPABLE, THEY SWEPT ACROSS THE REALMS LIKE RAGNAROK MADE FLESH AND BLOOD.

"THERE WERE THOSE WHO STOOD AS BULWARKS AGAINST THE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION THE MAIDENS WROUGHT.

"THE FROST GIANT JARLS OF JOTUNHEIM. THE ANCIENT WAR-MONGERS OF BREAKWORLD. THE TUATHA DE DANANN OF IRELAND.

"ENTIRE CULTURES DEDICATED TO WAR... RAVAGED FOR SPORT BY THE BLIGHTED HOST.

"ONLY THE INTERVENTION OF THE ALL-FATHER STOPPED THE DOOM MAIDENS."

THEY WERE FORGOTTEN-- YET ANOTHER DISGRACE FOR LORD ODIN TO SECRET AWAY IN HIS SHAME.

BUT MIDGARDIAN RATS SEEK TO USE THE MAGIC OF THE GOLDEN REALM TO WAKE THE MAIDENS.

THERE ARE ANCIENT INCANTATIONS THAT MIGHT DECIMATE ALL WE HOLD PRECIOUS SHOULD THEY BE SCRIBED IN ASGARDIAN BLOOD.

FOR THIS REASON, VALKYRIE, YOU MUST FORSWEAR THIS QUEST.

IT IS HIPPOLYTA OF THEMISCYRA WHO MUST STAND FOR US.

"I CALLED IN EVERY FAVOR I HAD AMONG THE COLLECTIVE GODS OF DEATH...

"I MADE GHASTLY PROMISES...

"...BUT THE MOST POWERFUL WARRIOR WOMAN NOW WALKS AMONG US AGAIN."

HA!

AN AMAZON?

YOU BARGAINED WITH THE GODS OF DEATH TO BRING BACK AN AMAZON?

THE QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS.

HER PEOPLE BATTLED THE BLIGHTED HOST MILLENNIA AGO.

SHE KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT THEM.

AND AS SHE IS NOT A BEING OF ASGARD, SHE CANNOT BE USED AGAINST US.

WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?

WHAT DO YOU CARE IF THESE DOOM MAIDENS SCOUR MIDGARD AND ASGARD OF ALL LIFE?

WOULDN'T THAT ONLY BOLSTER YOUR OWN KINGDOM?

AND ONCE THEY HAVE DESPOILED THE REALM OF THE LIVING, WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY WILL TURN NEXT?

ALREADY, THIS ADVERSARY HAS DEMONSTRATED CONTEMPT FOR MY DOMAIN.

ONE OF *MY* VALKYRIE HAS BEEN ABDUCTED.

DANI MOONSTAR.

SHE HAS SERVED AS DEATH'S SHIELD MAIDEN FROM TIME TO TIME.

HER CONNECTION TO *HEL* MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO FUEL THE *NECROMANCIES* NEEDED TO AWAKEN THE DOOM MAIDENS.

BUT MY *CHAMPION* WILL--

YOU DO NOT SIT UPON THE THRONE OF ASGARDIA, HELA.

IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE TO DECIDE WHO WILL FIGHT OUR BATTLES.

THE INTERESTS OF ASGARDIA...AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF HEL...WILL BE REPRESENTED.

HIPPOLYTA WILL NOT UNDERTAKE THIS TASK *ALONE.*

THESE *THREE* WILL ACCOMPANY HER.

HOLD.

WAIT A SECOND.

DO WHAT NOW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *"THESE THREE?"*

ANNABELLE RIGGS.

UNTIL FIVE SECONDS AGO, AN ORDINARY GIRL.

NOW...A SHIELDMAIDEN.

I'M SURE YOU'RE PUTTING ON A **BRAVE FACE** SOMEWHERE UNDERNEATH THAT STONE MASK, DEAR.

BUT IT'S WHOLLY **UNNECESSARY.**

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE TERRIFIED THOUGHTS RUNNING THROUGH YOUR MIND.

"WHERE ARE WE?"

AND "PLEASE SET ME FREE."

AND "WHY ME?"

MR. RAVEN.
RUTHLESS MERCENARY.

IT'S **PITIABLE,** REALLY...

...**ESPECIALLY** FROM ONE WHO HAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SUCH **GRAND DESIGNS.**

CAROLINE Le FAY.
PLAYS WITH HER FOOD.

"WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?"

DO YOU KNOW... I ONCE FELT THE WAY I IMAGINE YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT THIS VERY SECOND.

ALONE AND SO VERY, VERY AFRAID.

OF COURSE, THAT WAS WHEN I WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD, AND THE WOMAN WHO CALLED HERSELF MY MOTHER BEAT ME SEVERELY WHENEVER SHE WAS IN ONE OF HER FREQUENT BOUTS OF SELF-LOATHING.

I WAS TOO SCARED OF HER TO STAND UP FOR MYSELF.

I USED TO PRAY THAT THE WORLD WOULD END, JUST SO SHE WOULD DIE, TOO, AND THE BEATINGS WOULD STOP.

WHAT'S THAT?

"MY FRIENDS WILL COME LOOKING FOR ME?"

OH...

OF COURSE, I EVENTUALLY OUTGREW MY FEAR OF THE @#$%.

I FED HER PIECE BY PIECE TO THE HOUSEKEEPER'S CATS.

BUT I NEVER COULD SHAKE MY MORE... APOCALYPTIC PROCLIVITIES.

THE END OF THE WORLD...THAT'S SOMETHING I STILL WANT TO SEE.

SO, LET'S GET STARTED, SHALL WE?

"...I CERTAINLY *HOPE* SO."

HARROWPOINT ISLAND.
WASHINGTON.

WSSSSSHHH

I CAN APPRECIATE THE SHOCK AND AWE OF A *DRAMATIC ENTRANCE* AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GIRL.

BUT NEXT TIME WE'RE SETTING OUT ON A RESCUE MISSION, MAYBE WE SHOULD BE LESS *CONSPICUOUS?*

TELEPORTING INTO THE MIDDLE OF TOWN LIKE THIS, SOMEONE IS SURE TO--

--NOTICE.

OR NOT.

WHERE IS EVERYONE?

DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE THINK THIS IS--

CREEPY.

DEFINITELY *CREEPY.*

TAKE TO THE SKIES, ARAGORN.

I'LL CALL WHEN I NEED YOU.

HELA TRACKED THE *RESONANCE* OF THE ANCIENT RITUALS TO *THIS* PLACE?!

GIVE ME ARMIES TO CRUSH! GIVE ME FOES TO COW!

GIVE ME A KINGDOM TO RAZE OR TITANS TO DESPOIL!

THIS--THIS!-- IS BUT A *GHOST TOWN.*

AT THE VERY LEAST, THERE COULD BE A VINEYARD.

I HAVE A POWERFUL THIRST.

OVER HERE!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THIS COULDN'T GET ANY *WEIRDER.*

ODIN'S BEARD!

AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, WE'RE IN SOME KIND OF *REPLICA TOWN*...THE KIND USED DURING *NUCLEAR TESTING.*

ONLY...THE MANNEQUINS ARE ALL DRESSED AS *SUPER HEROES.*

SO...THE QUESTION IS... *WHO* WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

...AND *WHAT* THE HELL ARE THEY TESTING?

GOTTA SAY...

...WALKING THROUGH A TOWN FILLED WITH TARGET DUMMIES DRESSED AS THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY...

...ACCOMPANIED BY A TRIO OF SPARTAN *CROSS-DRESSERS*...

THIS IS A LEVEL OF *CRAZY* THAT I DON'T ENJOY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE FUN, MISTY.

I FEEL LIKE AN *IDIOT* WEARING THIS.

nonsense.

THE LOOK *SUITS* YOU.

OH... I JUST...
IT DOES?
INDEED.
YOU WOULD ALMOST MAKE A FINE *AMAZON*...WERE IT NOT FOR THE *ARMOR'S* FLAWED ASGARDIAN DESIGN.
FLAWED DESIGN?
THAT'S FAIR *IRONY* COMING FROM THE QUEEN OF A TRIBE OF POOR VALKYRIOR KNOCK-OFFS.
MY PEOPLE WERE BRED TO BE PROUD AND HONORABLE AND NEAR-FAULTLESS.
LET'S NOT FORGET THAT IT IS THE *INHERENT WEAKNESS* OF THE SHIELDMAIDENS THAT GOT US INTO THIS MESS.
ALL RIGHT, LADIES.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WHIP OUT THE *RULERS*.
YOU CAN OUT-XENA EACH OTHER ONCE WE'VE FINISHED THE JOB.
WHAT IS...

DO YOU FEEL THAT?

I DON'T FEEL A THING.

VALKYRIE...

...MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT A SECOND...

CRRREEEAK

IT COMES FROM BELOW.

STAY CLOSE.

VAL... SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

WHERE ARE THE GUARDS? DON'T YOU THINK WHOEVER IS TRYING TO PERFORM THIS RITUAL WOULD *PROTECT* IT?

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS. WAIT...

WE CANNOT *AFFORD* TO WAIT.

I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES. THE RITE HAS *ALREADY* BEGUN.

THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO TAKE THIS *SLOW*, ISN'T IT?

WE DON'T KNOW IF...HOW... THIS MAGIC MIGHT *AFFECT* YOU.

IF THE DOOM MAIDENS ARE AS TERRIBLE AS WE BELIEVE, WE CANNOT CHANCE EVEN *ONE* OF THEM WAKING.

I UNDERSTAND.

BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'LL--

OH.

WE'RE ALREADY *TOO LATE.*

HERMOTHA.
MAIDEN OF FILTH.

ARNLEIF.
MAIDEN OF SEDUCTION.

BALDA.
MAIDEN OF SLAUGHTER.

ALDVI.
MAIDEN OF DECEIT.

DAGGAERDH.
MAIDEN OF TORTURE.

SIGOTTA.
MAIDEN OF VERMIN.

DISTHORA.
MAIDEN OF INSANITY.

NEDRA.
MAIDEN OF CARRION.

THEY'VE ALREADY ROUSED THEM.

ALL OF THEM.

EXCELLENT!

THE HOURS SINCE MY RETURN HAVE BEEN AGONIZINGLY *DULL!*

AND I MUST ADMIT...PUMMELING A VALKYRIE...EVEN A FALLEN ONE--

--SOUNDS LIKE *FUN!*

SHAKK

HA!

KRREEKK

PERHAPS TIME HAS SWEETENED THE MEMORY OF BATTLES GONE BY!

BUT I REMEMBER YOU INSANE VALKYRIE BEING MUCH *TOUGHER!*

VRRRAAASSH

IS THIS WHAT YOU *EXPECTED*, MA'AM?

NOT QUITE, MR. RAVEN.

THE VALKYRIE, YES, BUT NOT HER FRIENDS.

STILL, IT IS BUT A *MINOR* COMPLICATION.

"THE END RESULT WILL BE THE SAME."

WHAT'S THE PLAY HERE?

FIRST THINGS FIRST--

--DUCK!

SHRAKK

UNNGH!

RRRAAGH!

I DON'T KNOW THAT I LIKE WHAT I'M SEEING.

I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THE VALKYRIE AND HER ALLIES TO BE ***DEAD*** BY NOW.

PATIENCE.

THE DOOM MAIDENS HAVE BEEN CATATONIC FOR A FEW ***THOUSAND*** YEARS.

"GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO BRUSH THE *SLEEP* FROM THEIR EYES."

THERE!

THAT'S WHERE DANI IS BEING HELD!

BLAM B-BLAM BLAM

I'VE GOT YOU COVERED, ANNABELLE.

READY TO PLAY SUPER HERO?

KRAK

HSSSHHSSSHHSSSSH

I'VE GOT HER!

NNNN

NOW CAN WE *PLEASE* GET OUT OF HERE?

BLAM K-BLAM BLAM

MOONSTAR'S BEEN RELEASED.

DON'T WORRY.

THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE. THE RITUAL IS *MOSTLY* COMPLETE.

"THE GIRL MIGHT STILL PROVE USEFUL, ONLY IN A *DIFFERENT* CAPACITY."

BAH!

HOW COULD YOU *WRETCHED CREATURES* HAVE GIVEN ME SO MUCH TROUBLE IN MY YOUTH?

HIPPOLYTA!

IF YOU'RE DONE *GLOATING*, I COULD USE YOUR HELP!

HA!

YOUR PLEAS FOR HELP ARE SUCH A SWEET SOUND!

WHAT...

OH...I...

OH, MY...

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU...

....ADMITTED...

LOOK AT THAT.

SEE HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER?

IT'S ALMOST SWEET.

LIKE A *FAMILY*...

"...ALTHOUGH *INCOMPLETE!*"

I...

I...

THERE'S A GOOD GIRL.

GIVE YOURSELF OVER TO ARNLEIF.

YIELDING TO PLEASURE IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN FIGHTING, ISN'T IT?

PSSH!

AMAZONS!

THE RITUAL OF AWAKENING...BROKEN OR NOT...*THUNDERS* IN MY BLOOD.

BUT...WHAT COULD IT BE CALLING TO?

AM I NOT ALREADY *AWAKE?*

RAAAAGGGHH!!

GRR-A-KOOM!!

RRRRRRR

NOW, THIS...

THIS...

"...IS *INTERESTING.*"

RRRRRRR

FORGIVENESS!

WE BEG OF THEE.

WE DID NOT *RECOGNIZE* YOU UNTIL NOW.

BUT IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN...

...SISTER.

THE FEARLESS DEFENDERS

HARROWPOINT ISLAND, WASHINGTON.

YOUR S-SISTER?

YOU'RE WRONG. CONFUSED.

VALKYRIE. SHIELDMAIDEN OF ASGARD.

ONLY CHILD.

I AM NO SISTER OF YOURS.

CAN IT BE?

SHE HAS FORGOTTEN.

RAGE.

SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHO SHE IS. WHO SHE WAS.

REMIND HER!

THRALL

RRRRGH!

SHRANG

YES!

THAT'S HER!

IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO HER.

SHE'S COMING BACK TO US!

RAAAGGGHHH!

THROOOM

RRRRRRGG

VALKYRIE!

I'VE GOT DANI!

WE NEED TO GO-- NOW!

ANNABELLE RIGGS. ARCHAEOLOGIST.

DANI MOONSTAR. HEL'S VALKYRIE.

I...

YES.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT WHAT ABOUT--

KA-RANG

HIPPOLYTA. QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS.

LOVESICK AND HELPLESS THANKS TO DOOM MAIDEN MAGIC.

I'VE GOT HER.

SHWAK

MISTY KNIGHT.

HAS BEEN WAITING FOR A MOMENT LIKE THIS.

WHAT...

...WAS *THAT?*

I'VE RAZED ENTIRE *NATIONS* FOR LESS.

ARE YOU BACK TO BEING YOURSELF?

BECAUSE I CAN HIT YOU AGAIN IF I NEED TO.

OVER HERE!

THIS FIGHT HAS GROWN *UNPLEASANT!*

AYE.

WHUMPH

LET'S TRY THIS *AGAIN!*

I DID NOT COME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO BE MOCKED BY A BUNCH OF MUMMIES!

THIS--*THIS*-- ONLY SHOWS HOW TRULY ***VEXATIOUS*** ASGARDIANS CAN BE!

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU PUT THEM IN THEIR PLACE.

VEXATIOUS?

SHE SOUNDS A LOT LIKE *YOU*, Y'KNOW?

IS IT JUST ME... OR ARE THESE FREAKS GETTING THEIR GROOVE BACK?

SLASH

YES! THESE ARE THE WARRIORS I--

AAARRGH!

THEY GROW STRONGER BY THE SECOND!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

KROOOSH

A RETREAT!

JUST WHEN OUR LITTLE SPARRING MATCH WAS GETTING INTERESTING?

I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RETREAT AND A *STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL.*

THINK OF IT LESS LIKE RUNNING AWAY...

...AND MORE LIKE SAVING OUR ASSES!

IF I *MUST.*

YAAA

WHEN DO I GET A FLYING HORSE?

WHA-KDA-SH

T-THANK GOD!

WHAT ABOUT THOSE THINGS... THE *DOOM MAIDENS?*

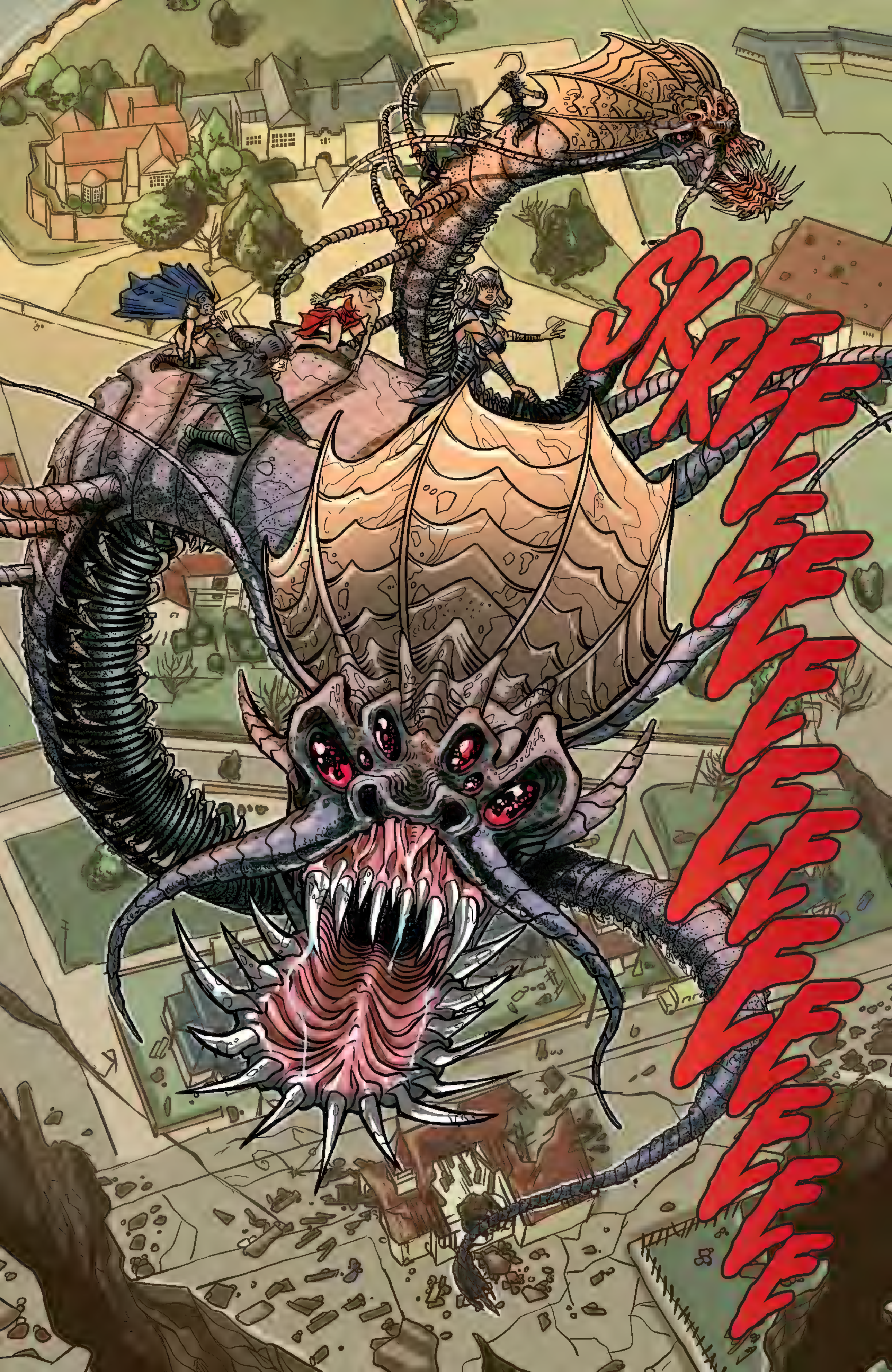
ARE THEY GOING TO COME AFTER US?

EVENTUALLY, YES.

BUT I THINK WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW.

THEIR STRENGTH IS GROWING, BUT I DOUBT THEY CAN--

RRRRRUMMMBBBBLLLLLEEE


SKREEEEEEEEEE

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE @#$% ME!

NOW THAT'S A CHALLENGE!

I'LL WAGER A FLASK OF DIONYSUS' FINEST WINE THAT I CAN FETTER ONE OF THOSE BEASTS IN UNDER--

NO, HIPPOLYTA.

THIS IS *BEYOND* ANY OF US.

WE NEED TO *REGROUP.*

I NEED NO SUCH THING! I'M ONLY JUST GETTING WARMED UP!

PUT THAT SWORD AWAY! DON'T YOU DARE *TELEPORT* ME--

"THEY'VE ESCAPED."

SHALL I ASSEMBLE A SQUAD, MA'AM?

NO.

NO, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WILL BE *NECESSARY.*

MR. RAVEN. CAROLINE LE FAY.

GRADE-A DIRTBAGS.

NOW THAT THE DOOM MAIDENS ARE AWAKE...NOW THAT THEY'RE WIPING THE METAPHYSICAL *SLEEP* FROM THEIR EYES...

...THEY'LL FIND THE VALKYRIE AND HER ALLIES SOON ENOUGH.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, EVENTS ARE UNFOLDING IN A PERFECTLY *ACCEPTABLE* MANNER.

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MA'AM.

THESE DOOM MAIDENS ARE POWERFUL, YES, BUT THEY SEEM *UNFOCUSED.*

IT MIGHT BE SMART FOR MY TEAM TO GET EYES ON OUR ENEMIES...TO CALL OUT THEIR LOCATION.

I LIKE YOU, MR. RAVEN. YOU ARE A *VERY SPECIAL* YOUNG MAN TO ME.

BUT IF YOU QUESTION ME AGAIN, I'LL USE YOUR *CORPSE* TO FERTILIZE MY GARDEN COME SPRING.

MY GIRLS HAVE BEEN DORMANT FOR CENTURIES. THEY JUST NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.

THEY'LL TRACK THEIR WAYWARD SISTER WHEN THEY'RE GOOD AND READY. UNTIL THEN...

"LET THEM *PLAY.*"

NEW YORK CITY.

ONE OF MISTY KNIGHT'S SAFE HOUSES.

OKAY.

I'M JUST GONNA SAY IT.

WE NEED HELP...

...AND I'VE GOT THE *AVENGERS* ON SPEED DIAL.

BAH!

I HAVE YET TO SEE THE DAY THAT I NEEDED THE HELP OF *MEN!*

THERE ARE MEN *AND* WOMEN ON THE AVENGERS, YOU KNOW.

SO THEY'D HAVE YOU BELIEVE!

WHO CARES?

MEN, WOMEN, OR OTHER--THEY'RE THE *BIG GUNS*, AND WE COULD USE THEM RIGHT NOW.

I'M AFRAID NOT EVEN THE AVENGERS CAN REPAIR THE DAMAGE I'VE DONE.

THE DOOM MAIDENS GROW STRONGER BY THE MOMENT. SOON THEY WILL BE LIKE GODS.

AND EVEN IF THEY CAN BE CAST DOWN, THEY WILL SIMPLY RISE AGAIN.

UNLESS THE VALKYRIOR--THE *SHIELDMAIDENS*-- TAKE THEIR PLACE.

THE SCALES ARE OUT OF WHACK.

THE DOOM MAIDENS HAVE TAKEN THE PLACE OF THE VALKYRIE?

THEY CAN'T BE PUT TO REST WITHOUT A COUNTERBALANCE IN PLACE?

ODIN SAW IT, SO LONG AGO.

THE ALL-MOTHER SAW IT.

AND NOW I SEE IT...BUT IT IS TOO LATE.

YOU SURE SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THEM ALL OF A SUDDEN.

IT WASN'T LONG AGO THAT YOU WERE IN THE DARK, JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.

THIS WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT LITTLE ***HALLMARK MOMENT*** YOU HAD BACK THERE IN THE CATACOMBS, WOULD IT?

LOOK. WHATEVER.

IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU NEED TO GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE AND CHOOSE SOME VALKYRIE.

I...

...NEED TO THINK.

WELL.
THAT WAS *AWKWARD.* BUT NO MATTER.
IT IS TIME TO GO.
GO?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WAS TASKED WITH RETURNING YOU TO HELA.
HELA?
FOR *SAFEKEEPING.*
WHAT? LIKE A *COMMEMORATIVE PLATE?*
YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME ANYWHERE.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATION.
ACTUALLY... I *DON'T*...NOR DO I CARE.
I AM NOT DISINCLINED TO THROW YOU OVER MY SHOULDER AND DRAG YOU BACK TO HEL KICKING AND SCREAMING.
TRY IT.
TO DENY HELA IS TO DENY THE GODS.
AND? LET ME ASK YOU--
DO YOU ALWAYS DO AS YOU'RE TOLD?
THIS IS *VALKYRIE* BUSINESS... AND I'LL BE *DAMNED* IF I'M LETTING ANYONE-- NOT EVEN A GODDESS-- PUT ME ON THE *SIDELINES.*
I'LL SEE THIS THROUGH...

"...AS A VALKYRIE."

I WAS BORN *BRUNHILDE OF WRLSTEAD ARMS.*

A MORTAL... A PRINCESS... BLESSED BY ODIN AND CHOSEN AS THE *FIRST* OF HIS SHIELDMAIDENS.

I WAS A SYMBOL OF VALOR AND HONOR.

I WAS THE PROMISE OF *PARADISE.*

I AM NOT A *MONSTER.*

I AM NOT...

LONG AGO.

BRUNHILDE.
MAIDEN OF RAGE.

THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANTED FOR YOU, GIRL.

THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANTED FOR ANY OF YOU.

BUT *YOU* MOST OF ALL.

ODIN.
ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD.

I *KNOW* WHAT YOU WANTED FROM ME, *ALL-FATHER.*

YOUR ONE EYE NEVER LEAVES THIS BODY.

YOU TIRED OLD LECH.

SHRRAAAK

RRRAAAGGH!

YOUR WORDS...

...THEY ARE NOT THOSE OF THE VALKYRIE I CREATED.

WHATEVER YOU HAVE SEEN... WHATEVER *TORMENTS* YOU...IT TWISTS YOUR THOUGHTS.

YOUR ANGER... YOUR FURY... *CONSUMES* YOU!

DIE!

HRRR

K-CHAAK

I'LL SEE MY MISTAKES UNDONE.

I'LL SEE THE MEMORY OF MY FAILURE *SCOURED* FROM ALL OF ASGARD.

YOU'RE *BLEEDING*, OLD MAN.

YOU MADE ME TOO STRONG.

STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY YOU.

YOU ARE STRONG, YES.

BUT BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE ODINFORCE, YOU ARE STILL BUT--

PTUU

A CHILD.

FATHER!

VAL?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I...

I WAS *WRONG.*

ALL THIS TIME...FOR ALL THESE CENTURIES... I BELIEVED...

I WAS LIED TO.

YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.

NO ONE'S GONNA BLAME YOU IF YOU NEED TO *REST.*

UH...

SORRY.

IDIOT.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

FAR FROM HERE. FAR FROM ANYONE WHO MIGHT GET HURT.

THE DOOM MAIDENS WILL SEEK ME OUT.

THEY'LL TRACK ME... HERE...TO THE CITY.

AND THEY'LL DESTROY EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH TO GET TO ME.

BECAUSE I AM *ONE* OF THEM.

I'LL NEED MOONSTAR AND HIPPOLYTA WITH ME.

I CAN SLOW THE DOOM MAIDENS DOWN... BUT NOT FOR LONG.

THEY'LL CATCH UP WITH ME, AND WHEN THEY DO...

DON'T WORRY.

I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WAIT...

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

AWAY.

AND THEY'RE JUST LEAVING US HERE?

NOT SAYING IT WAS THE *RIGHT* CALL.

NOT SAYING IT WAS THE *WRONG* CALL, EITHER.

BUT IT WAS *VAL'S* DECISION.

DON'T FREAK OUT ON ME, THOUGH.

WE'RE NOT *BENCHED.*

WHAT IS THIS?

THIS?

THIS IS WHERE THE *MAGIC* HAPPENS.

HELLO, HERO.

ARE YOU FOR *HIRE?*

THE FEARLESS

DEFENDERS

1P

2P

FIGHT!

BROOKS

DESCANSO DE DEUS.

BRAZIL.

I HAVE LED WARRIORS INTO BATTLE MORE OFTEN THAN I CAN REMEMBER...*LITERALLY.*

EVERY FIGHT, WHETHER SKIRMISH OR SIEGE, HAS ITS OWN *FLAVOR*...AND ITS OWN *COST.*

THE PRICE MAY BE MEASURED *AFTER* THE CONFLICT--BY COUNTING THE BODIES OF FALLEN COMRADES.

OR THE TOLL MAY BE WEIGHED *BEFORE* THE FIRST VOLLEY--IN WHAT YOU MUST SACRIFICE IN THE NAME OF STRATEGY.

IN THIS FIGHT, I FEAR I HAVE OFFERED UP MY OWN *HONOR* AS A LAMB FOR THE KNIFE.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

VALKYRIE.

HIPPOLYTA.

DANI MOONSTAR.

I HOPE THAT I AM *WRONG.*

I TRY TO TELL MYSELF THAT I HAVE NOT *BETRAYED* MY ALLIES. MY FRIENDS.

WHERE ARE WE?

THESE STATUES...THEY'RE *ASGARDIAN.*

KIND OF.

BUT...NO OFFENSE, VAL... YOU'RE PRETTY FAR FROM HOME.

I TELL MYSELF THAT WITHHOLDING THE TRUTH IS NOT THE SAME AS A LIE.

ASGARD'S INFLUENCE WAS NOT RESTRICTED TO THE NORTH.

IN AGES PAST, THE GODS DISPATCHED *MESSENGERS* TO BRING WORD OF THEIR GLORY TO ALL CORNERS OF MIDGARD.

MISSIONARIES.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST REMOTE PLACES IN THE WORLD.

BUT THERE ARE *VILLAGES* IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THIS MOUNTAIN WHERE ODIN AND THOR AND EVEN LOKI ARE HELD IN HIGH REGARD.

THESE ARE *HOLY GROUNDS*, WHERE *GAMES* WERE HELD TO HONOR--

THIS IS AN *ARENA.*

I'M *GREEK.* I KNOW ARENAS.

ALSO...THE ONLY *MOVIES* PLUTO ALLOWS IN THE UNDERWORLD ARE *GLADIATOR* AND *MORTAL KOMBAT.*

THEY'RE *HERE.*

THE DOOM MAIDENS.
INSANE SHIELDMAIDENS THAT TIME FORGOT. VALKYRIE'S OLD GANG.

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEE

CAROLINE LeFAY.
VILLAIN WITH A PEDIGREE FOR DRAGON-RIDING.

IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THE GODS ALREADY, THIS MIGHT *CONVINCE* ME.

OUR ENEMIES... SIMPLY WAITING FOR US WITH THEIR THROATS OUT...

...WELL, IF THAT'S NOT *DIVINE*, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IS.

I DON'T TRUST THIS, MA'AM.

THEY'RE *PLANNING* SOMETHING.

MR. RAVEN.
MURDEROUS AND PARANOID-- A LOVELY COMBINATION FOR A MERCENARY.

OH, I *HOPE* SO.

I'M *COUNTING* ON IT.

VAL... THIS PLAN OF YOURS...

TELL ME IT INVOLVES LOTS OF *RUNNING.*

YES...

RUN!

FWOOOOOOOSH

AAGH!

THAT BURNS!

GRRTCH-KRAK

I DIDN'T THINK I *COULD* BE BURNED!

BUT I KNOW THIS FOR CERTAIN--

--I DIDN'T COME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO BE ROASTED BY *DRAGON SPITTLE!*

GRRRNK

HERE!

RRRR

HERE'S AT LEAST ONE ANCIENT ASGARDIAN WHO WILL PROVE *USEFUL!*

HHT!

SKKKRRROOOM!!

SHAKKOW!!

THROOOM

HIPPOLYTA AND I WILL STAVE OFF THE DOOM MAIDENS.

DANI-- TAKE COVER!

"TAKE COVER"?

WHAT? DID YOU FORGET I'M A *VALKYRIE*, TOO?

I MEAN... WHY ELSE DID YOU BRING ME ALONG?

SHRAK

WHY FIGHT, SISTER?

YOU DO BATTLE WITH YOURSELF AS SURELY AS YOU WAGE WAR WITH US!

GIVE YOURSELF TO US!

TORN FLESH AND SPILLED BLOOD!

CARNAGE FOR THE--

FWOOM

HRRUGG!

THE ALL-DESTRUCTION DEMANDS ITS TITHING!

HNNF!

SHHRRRRAAAKK

I TOLD YOU TO SEEK REFUGE.

YEAH.

THAT WAS *DUMB.*

SO, IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE UP YOUR SLEEVE, NOW'S THE TIME.

IT WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE ***EFFICIENT*** IF YOU'D JUST SKIP AHEAD TO YOUR INEVITABLE ***SURRENDER.***

I'D BE HAPPY TO REWARD YOUR COOPERATION WITH A QUICK, RELATIVELY PAINLESS DEATH.

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE HOPELESSLY--

--OUTNUMBERED.

STORM.
THUNDRA.
ELEKTRA.
SPIDER-WOMAN.
TARANTULA.
BLACK CAT.
BLACK WIDOW.
SHE-HULK.
TIGRA.
COLLEEN WING.
CAPTAIN MARVEL.
HELLCAT.

I TOLD YOU I WANTED A *FLYING HORSE!*

MISTY KNIGHT.
NUMBER ONE "MY ATOMIC PONY" FAN.

MA'AM, NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO TAKE COVER.

THERE'S STILL ONLY ONE WAY THIS PLAYS OUT.

I'LL BE HERE TO *WATCH.*

SO *THIS* IS YOUR PLAN?

ONLY *PART* OF IT.

ANNABELLE... YOU DRIVE.

ME?

HOLD ON! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DRI--

WHEEEE!

DR. ANNABELLE RIGGS.

HAS WRECKED AN EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER OF MOPEDS.

SO, STORM... WHAT'S YOUR *DEAL* WITH VALKYRIE?

LAST I HEARD, THE TWO OF YOU WERE DUKING IT OUT OVER SAN FRANCISCO.

FRIENDS *FIGHT* SOMETIMES, CAROL.

LATELY, IT SEEMS WE FIGHT A *LOT*.

I THOUGHT WORKING TOGETHER MIGHT FEEL GOOD FOR A CHANGE.

TIGRA, BLACK CAT, AND HELLCAT--WORKING TOGETHER?

IF THE *SPIDER* WERE HERE, HE'D BE CRACKING JOKES ABOUT *LOST MITTENS.*

THEN I'M *GLAD* HE'S NOT HERE!

I GET IT, MISTY. YOU WANT TO *EXPAND* YOUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

BUT *THIS* IS WHAT YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

GIRL, YOU DO NOT EVEN WANT TO KNOW HOW MANY *ZOMBIES* I'VE HAD TO FIGHT LATELY!

YOU TWO ARE NO STRANGERS TO *DEATH.* I CAN *SMELL* IT ON YOU.

AND YET YOU'RE BOTH SO DREADFULLY *JUVENILE* IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

GIVE US A SECOND.

WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH WE KNOW.

BRAKKA-BRAK-BRAK

GREETINGS, GREEN ONE!

I AM *HIPPOLYTA!* QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS RETURNED!

YEAH. I KNOW...

...UH...I KNOW YOUR EX.

AWKWARD, JEN. REAL AWKWARD.

IS THIS A *GAME* TO YOU?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DEALING WITH, CHILD?

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I'VE WRESTLED BIGGER...AND MEANER!

GHOOOM

I'LL RIP YOUR *SPINES* FROM YOUR CARCASS!

REMIND ME AGAIN WHY I AGREED TO DO THIS?

OFFER THEM TO THE ALL-DESTRUCTION!

MONEY, RIGHT?

WAIT A MINUTE. WE'RE GETTING *PAID* FOR THIS, AREN'T WE?

WE ONLY NEEDED A TOTAL OF *NINE* SHIELD-MAIDENS.

I KNOW.

BUT WITH YOU BEING SO *INDECISIVE* LATELY WHEN IT COMES TO POTENTIAL TEAMMATES...

...I FIGURED IT COULDN'T HURT TO BRING A FEW *EXTRAS.*

HEADS UP!

WRA-WHOOM

DID YOU SEE WHAT I DID THERE?

I *TOTALLY* DID THAT ON PURPOSE!

DR. ANNABELLE RIGGS.

HAS SURVIVED EVERY SCOOTER CRASH WITHOUT A SCRATCH.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT INJURED, ARE YOU?

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO IS CONFUSED BY THIS... *GIRL'S* PRESENCE?

SHE'S *NO* WARRIOR!

ONE OF US SHOULD ESCORT HER BACK TO SAFETY!

WHY IS SHE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

SHE'S HERE...

I CANNOT BE *BURDENED* BY A MORTAL PRESENCE.

FAIR ENOUGH.

BUT...IF YOU LEAVE WITHOUT ME...I'LL DIG UP SOME *OTHER* ARTIFACT TO SUMMON YOU...

...AND MAYBE *NEXT TIME,* IT'LL MAKE YOU DANCE LIKE A PUPPET ON A STRING, TOO.

...

WELL COUNTERED.

...BECAUSE SHE IS A *VALKYRIE.*

NOW.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...

...STAY WITH MISTY. SHE'LL *PROTECT* YOU.

UH...

AM I THE ONLY ONE GETTING WAY MIXED SIGNALS HERE?

YOU!

YOU *KIDNAPPED* ME! YOU USED ME AS SOME SORT OF *ALARM CLOCK* TO *WAKE* THESE MONSTERS!

YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, LADY!

OF COURSE I *DO*, CHILD.

I'M CERTAIN I'LL PAY DEARLY FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF MY *INIQUITIES.*

BUT *NOT* TODAY.

AND NOT BY *YOUR HAND.*

MR. RAVEN.

MA'AM.

THRAK

REALLY?

ACCK!

DO I *LOOK* LIKE SOMEONE YOU WANT TO TRIFLE WITH?

ARE YOU...*HRR*... *KIDDING?*

DAY IN, DAY OUT, I'M UP TO MY *EARS* IN *VALKYRIES.*

BEEN *DYING* TO SHOW ONE OF THESE LITTLE LADIES WHO'S *BOSS.*

OH, I SEE.

YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO WANTS PAYBACK FOR ALL THE GIRLS WHO *DUMPED* YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR PATIENCE FOR THAT LEVEL OF *PATHETIC.*

GRUK

URK!

POOR GIRL.

YOU HAVE NO EARTHLY *IDEA* WHY YOU'RE HERE, DO YOU?

YOU DRAGGED ME INTO THIS.

TSK.

THE RITUAL TO WAKE THE DOOM MAIDENS IS *ONGOING.*

I SIMPLY STARTED THE PROCESS.

AND YOU, MY DEAR, ARE THE *BATTERY.*

"AND I DIDN'T BRING YOU *HERE.*

"*SHE* DID.

"SHE KNEW SHE COULDN'T DEFEAT THE *BLIGHTED HOST...*

"...NOT EVEN WITH ALL THE HEROES OF THE WORLD BY HER SIDE."

SHE NEEDED AN EDGE ONLY *YOU* COULD GIVE HER.

YOUR FRIEND...YOUR ALLY... *NEEDED* YOU HERE WITH HER...

...WHERE THE DOOM MAIDENS COULDN'T HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE.

WHERE *SHE* COULDN'T HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE.

"AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION.

"WHERE SHE COULD *CUT LOOSE.*

"WHERE SHE COULD *WAKE!*

RRRAAAGGGHH!

VALKYRIE?

RRRRAAGHH!

KRA-THROOM

BRUNHILDE.
MAIDEN OF RAGE.

THROOM

WHO'S NEXT?

THROOM

SHE'S CHANGED.

LIKE A BERSERKER OF OLD.

BUT...SHE'LL SNAP OUT OF IT, RIGHT?

I DON'T THINK SO.

I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT RAGE.

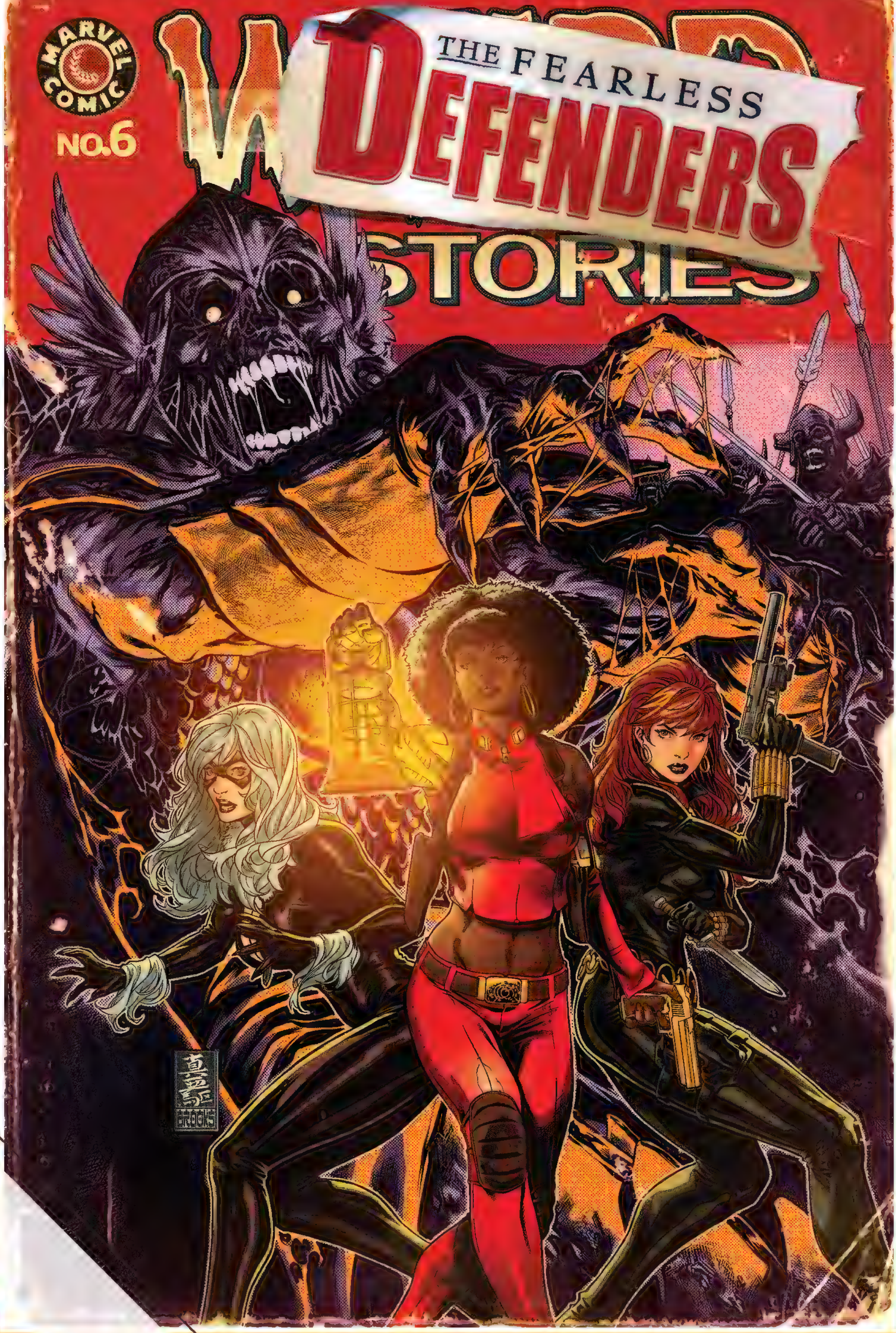
AND THAT KIND OF FURY... IT'S NOT GOING TO PASS WITHOUT TAKING SOMEONE WITH IT.

MARVEL COMICS

NO.6

MARVEL STORIES

THE FEARLESS DEFENDERS



I WAS BORN BRUNNHILDE OF WRLSTEAD ARMS.

YOU WOULD *DIE* TO ENSURE THIS MAN'S SOUL CARRIED ON?

I *WOULD.*

BUT I HAVE LIVED MOST OF MY LIFE AS THE *FIRST* OF LORD ODIN'S *VALKYRIE.*

OR SO I BELIEVED.

RRRRAAAAAGGGGHHH!

THE *SHIELDMAIDENS* WERE SYMBOLS OF THE ALL-FATHER'S SACRED PROMISE...A *PARADISE* AWAITING THOSE WORTHY OF REACHING IT.

SO, TOO, WERE WE ODIN'S WARRIORS, SCOUTS, ENVOYS, AND SPIES, RIDING TO THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE.

MY SISTERS AND I WERE LIKE CREATURES OF *DREAM.*

YEEEAAAAKKH!

NOBLE WARRIORS LONGED TO GLIMPSE OUR FACES AFTER HARD-FOUGHT BATTLES.

BUT SOMETHING WE *ENCOUNTERED*, SOMETHING WE *SAW* IN THE COLD VASTNESS OF SPACE...

...CHANGED US.

THE DREAM BECAME A *NIGHTMARE.*

AND THOSE WARRIORS WE MET ON THE FIELD OF WAR WERE LIKE LAMBS FOR THE *SLAUGHTER.*

STARING INTO THE GULFS OF THE ABYSS, WE WERE DRIVEN *MAD.*

THAT'S *NOT* HER.

THAT'S *NOT* VALKYRIE.

WE BECAME THE *DOOM MAIDENS.*

WE WERE UNSTOPPABLE.

COME ALONG, MR. RAVEN.

THIS OPERATION HAS GONE SOUTH FOR US MORE QUICKLY THAN I ANTICIPATED.

BUT OUR GOALS ARE *ACCOMPLISHED* JUST THE SAME.

THE DIE IS CAST.

THOSE WHO DID NOT FLEE BEFORE US WERE *CRUSHED*...THE WAY *INSECTS* ARE CRUSHED BENEATH ONE'S BOOT.

IT WAS ODIN HIMSELF WHO PUT AN END TO OUR CAMPAIGN OF DESTRUCTION.

AND IT NEARLY *BROKE* HIM TO SEE HOW FAR HIS SHIELDMAIDENS HAD *FALLEN*.

HE CAST THE DOOM MAIDENS INTO *DARKNESS.*

EXCEPT FOR *ME.*

SUCH WAS HIS *LOVE* FOR ME...THE FIRST OF HIS SHIELDMAIDENS... THAT HE ALLOWED ME TO *LIVE.*

MY MEMORIES *REFORGED* SO THAT I MIGHT ONCE AGAIN KNOW THE MEANING OF *HONOR.*

HE CONCEALED MY *MADNESS*...EVEN FROM *MYSELF.*

UNTIL NOW.

MORE.

AND NOW...THE WOMAN THAT I WAS...THE *LIE* THAT I WAS LIVING FOR SO LONG...

...*THAT* IS THE *INSANITY*...

MORE!

...AND THE ONLY TRUTH IS RAGE.

MORE!

VALKYRIE.

SHA-THRAK

RNNF!

MISTY KNIGHT.

THUNDRA.

SKRA-BOOM

SPIDER-WOMAN.

STORM.

VALKYRIE! CONTROL YOURSELF!

I DO NOT WANT TO *HARM* YOU, BUT--

AAHH!

UNGGH!

WA-CHOOOM

CAPTAIN MARVEL.

ARE THESE THE *COWS* THAT STOOD AGAINST MY SISTERS?

PATHETIC!

NO WONDER I WAS OUR FATHER'S FAVORITE!

SHRAKKOW

TARANTULA.

BLACK WIDOW.

DANI-MOONSTAR.

STAY DOWN, ANNABELLE!

THERE'S *NOTHING* YOU CAN DO NOW!

DR. ANNABELLE RIGGS.

NO!

I CAN TALK HER DOWN...TALK SOME SENSE INTO--

AAGHH!

CHOOM

WHAT DO YOU SAY, GREEN MAIDEN?

I'LL HIT HER *HIGH*, YOU HIT HER *LOW?*

VALKYRIE JUST TOOK DOWN NEARLY TWO DOZEN HEAVY HITTERS.

LET'S DISPENSE WITH THE *PLANNING--*

HIPPOLYTA.

SHE-HULK.

--AND JUST PUNCH HER 'TIL SHE STOPS MOVING!

SMASH

WORKS FOR ME.

WHAM

I--

GRAB

KRACK

HNNF!

AMAZON-- *YES!*

I *REMEMBER* YOUR PEOPLE.

I REMEMBER HOW *BRAVELY* YOU FOUGHT THE *BLIGHTED HOST.*

I REMEMBER HOW BATTLE CRIES TURNED TO *PLEAS* FOR MERCY.

WHACK

I GET IT.

YOU'RE SOME SORT OF *BERSERKER.*

A *PERSONIFICATION* OF RAGE.

WELL--

--I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT *RAGE!*

HRRK!

WHOOM

HRRRGH!

DON'T PREACH TO ME ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW!

YOU ARE AN INFANT BEFORE A GOD!

MORE.

THIS--

--IS SUCH A *BAD IDEA!*

BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

WHO *ELSE* IS LEFT?

MORE.

VALKYRIE!

STOP THIS!

THERE ARE *PEOPLE* IN THAT VILLAGE!

YOU CAN'T GO DOWN THERE!

ISN'T THAT *SWEET?*

A LOVESICK LITTLE *SHIELDMAIDEN*... FOLLOWING ME LIKE A PUPPY.

AND YOU BROUGHT ME *MY SWORD!*

DO YOU WANT A REWARD?

ANOTHER *MEANINGLESS KISS* PERHAPS?

I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU HURT ANYONE ELSE.

TH-THIS *ISN'T* YOU, VALKYRIE.

THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU *WANT.*

IF YOU HAD THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHAT I WANTED, YOU'D RUN FROM ME AS FAST AS YOU COULD.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

MAYBE...

MAYBE I'M NOT MUCH OF A VALKYRIE...BUT I WAS CHOSEN JUST THE SAME.

"MAYBE THE ALL-MOTHER KNEW YOU'D NEED ME TO *STOP* YOU...

"...AND IF THAT MEANS I HAVE TO *FIGHT* YOU... THEN THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO."

DO YOU REALLY WANT A FIGHT?

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU'RE WORTHY TO STAND AGAINST ME?

NO...BUT I BELIEVE YOU'RE MY FRIEND.

I BELIEVE THAT DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW THAT.

THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T SLAUGHTER MISTY, DANI, AND THE OTHERS...

THAT'S WHY YOU LET THEM LIVE.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T LET RAGE HURT ME.

A SHIELDMAIDEN IS SUPPOSED TO ESCORT WARRIORS TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD.

BUT I'M HERE FOR YOU, VAL.

I'M HERE TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

...

ANNABELLE? I...

YOU...YOU SHOULDN'T...

I... CAN'T...

...CAN'T CONTROL...

...CAN'T FIND MY WAY...

...YOU HAVE TO GET AWAY...

...

YOU THINK THIS DISPLAY OF FAITH...OF LOVE...CAN WREST YOUR BELOVED VALKYRIE FROM ME?

I'LL ALWAYS HAVE A HOLD ON HER SOUL.

I STRIKE, EVEN AS YOU CALL HER FROM THE VOID.

THERE'S A PRICE, LITTLE SHIELDMAIDEN.

"AND I'LL EXACT IT BEFORE I'M GONE!"

MISTY, LOOK AT THIS.

THE DOOM MAIDENS... THEY'RE WITHERING... *MUMMIFYING...*

THERE'S NO *LIFE LEFT* IN THEM.

MAYBE...WHATEVER MAGIC KEPT THEM UP AND MOVING... IS *FADING.*

DEFEATING THEM...WITH ALL THESE WOMEN TAKING THE ROLE OF *SHIELDMAIDENS*... MAYBE IT STOPPED THEM.

MAYBE THE SPELL IS *BROKEN.*

BUT FOR *HOW LONG* THIS TIME?

FOR AS LONG AS *WE* STAND AS THEIR OPPOSITE.

ANNABELLE!

IS SHE--

SHE IS GONE.

THIS MORTAL... THIS GIRL...STOOD AGAINST RAGE... AGAINST ME.

HER STRENGTH AND BRAVERY WAS LIKE A BEACON.

I HEARD HER VOICE AS CLEARLY AS I MIGHT HEAR THE TRUMPET OF GJÖLL.

SHE SUMMONED ME BACK...ALLOWED ME TO REGAIN MY SENSES...BUT NOT BEFORE THE DOOM MAIDEN LASHED OUT ONE LAST TIME.

FOR SO LONG...I BELIEVED I WAS TASKED WITH CHOOSING THOSE WHO WERE WORTHY.

I THOUGHT IT WAS MY JOB TO WEIGH EACH INDIVIDUAL'S MERITS.

BUT I WAS *WRONG.*

THE CHOICES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.

I JUST NEEDED TO OPEN MY *EYES.*

AND THAT *FRIGHTENS* ME.

EVERY VALKYRIE IS GIFTED WITH *DEATHSIGHT*-- THE ABILITY TO SEE IMPENDING DOOM.

NOW I REALIZE THAT I SEE POTENTIAL SHIELDMAIDENS WITH THOSE *SAME* EYES.

AND I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS.

UNTIL I DO, I WILL *NOT* CALL THE VALKYRIOR TOGETHER.

"LONG HAVE THE HEROES OF THIS WORLD COME TOGETHER TO FACE THE STRANGEST OF CHALLENGES.

"SO SHALL IT BE ONCE MORE.

"WITH OUR RESOURCES, WE CAN PULL ALLIES TOGETHER ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

"WE CAN CALL UPON ONE ANOTHER TO FACE THREATS THAT MIGHT BE BEYOND ANY ONE OF OUR NUMBER.

"THERE WILL CERTAINLY COME A DAY WHEN THE VALKYRIOR *MUST* RISE AGAIN...

"AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, I'LL CHOOSE THEM FROM THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT BY MY SIDE."

THE SHIELDMAIDENS DID NOT *DEFEAT* THE BLIGHTED HOST TODAY.

DESPITE WHAT THE ALL-MOTHER SAYS, THE WORLD DOES NOT *NEED* SHIELDMAIDENS.

IT NEEDS DEFENDERS.

GO #$%@ YOURSELF!

POW

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.

MA'AM?

I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO--

NOT NOW, MR. RAVEN.

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M *BUSY?*

CAROLINE LE FAY.

MR. RAVEN.

THE DOOR HAS BEEN OPENED.

THE BLIGHTED HOST AWAKENED FOR ONLY THE BLINK OF AN EYE...BUT ITS PURPOSE HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

ITS *CALL* HAS BEEN HEARD.

AND JUST AS THE VALKYRIE USHER THE DEAD INTO THE AFTERLIFE... I'LL USHER THIS PUERILE REALM INTO *OBLIVION.*

LADY DEATHSTRIKE

ANACONDA

ARADNEA

SHRIEK

MYSTIQUE

ENCHANTRESS

TITANIA

DANSEN MACABRE

BUT THERE'S STILL *SO MUCH* WORK TO BE DONE.

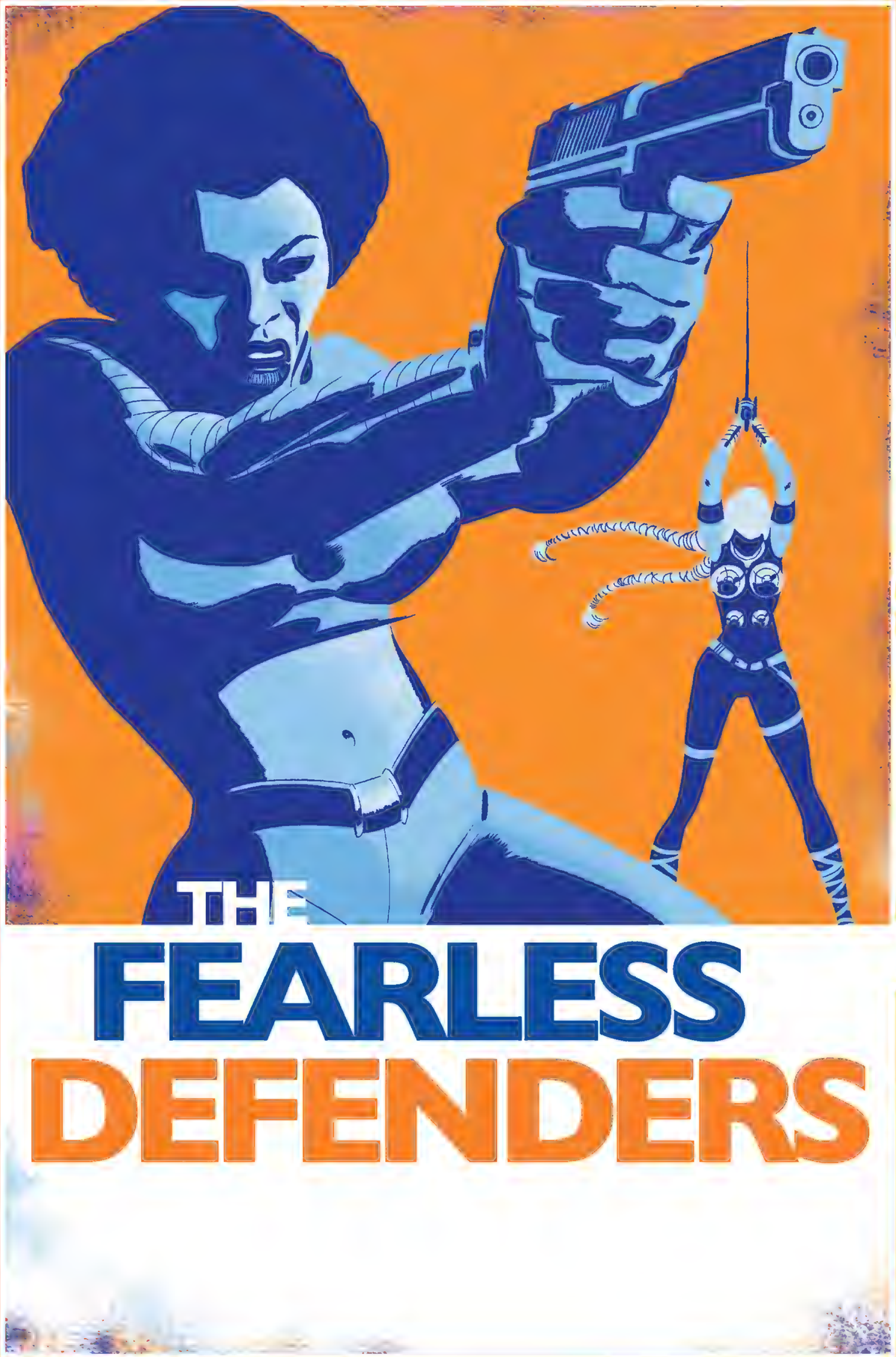
SO MANY NEW *DOOM MAIDENS* TO CHOOSE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

FEARLESS DEFENDERS #1 VARIANT BY SKOTTIE YOUNG

FEARLESS DEFENDERS #1 VARIANT BY MIKE DEODATO & RAIN BEREDO

FEARLESS DEFENDERS #1 VARIANT BY MILO MANARA



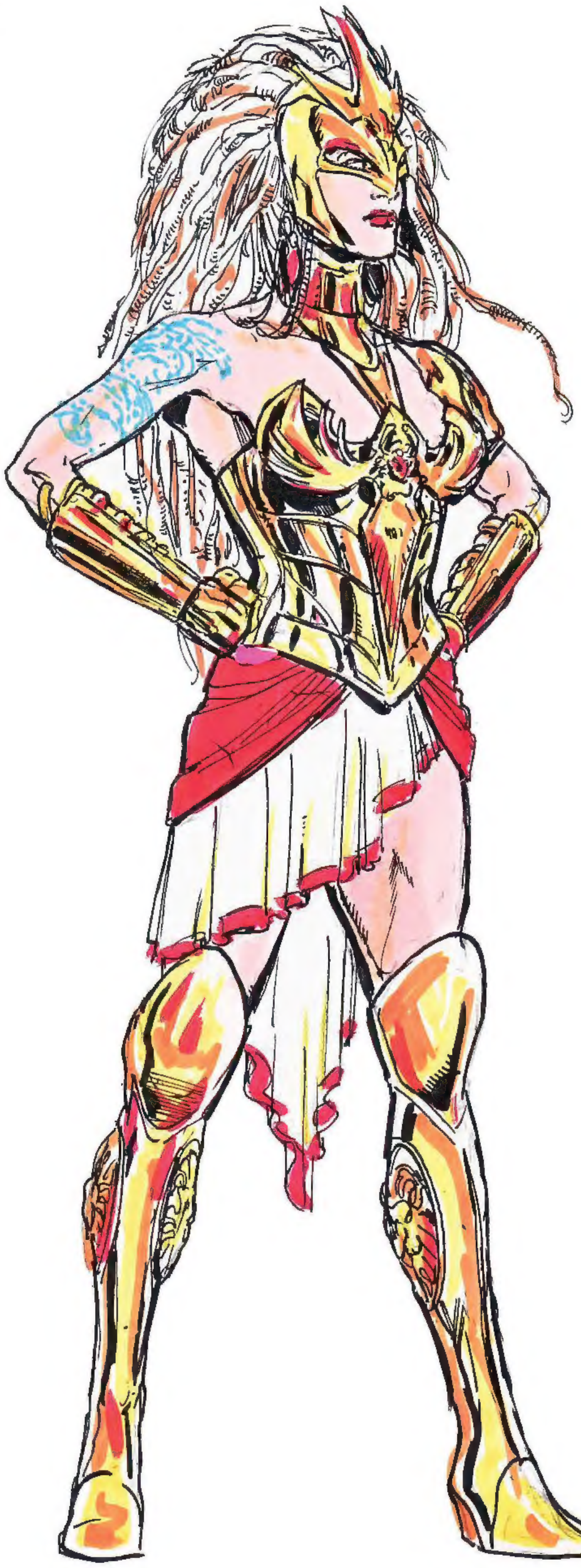
FEARLESS DEFENDERS #2 VARIANT BY MARCOS MARTIN

FEARLESS DEFENDERS #3 VARIANT BY PHIL JIMENEZ & FRANK D'ARMATA

FEARLESS DEFENDERS #4 VARIANT BY STEPHANIE HANS

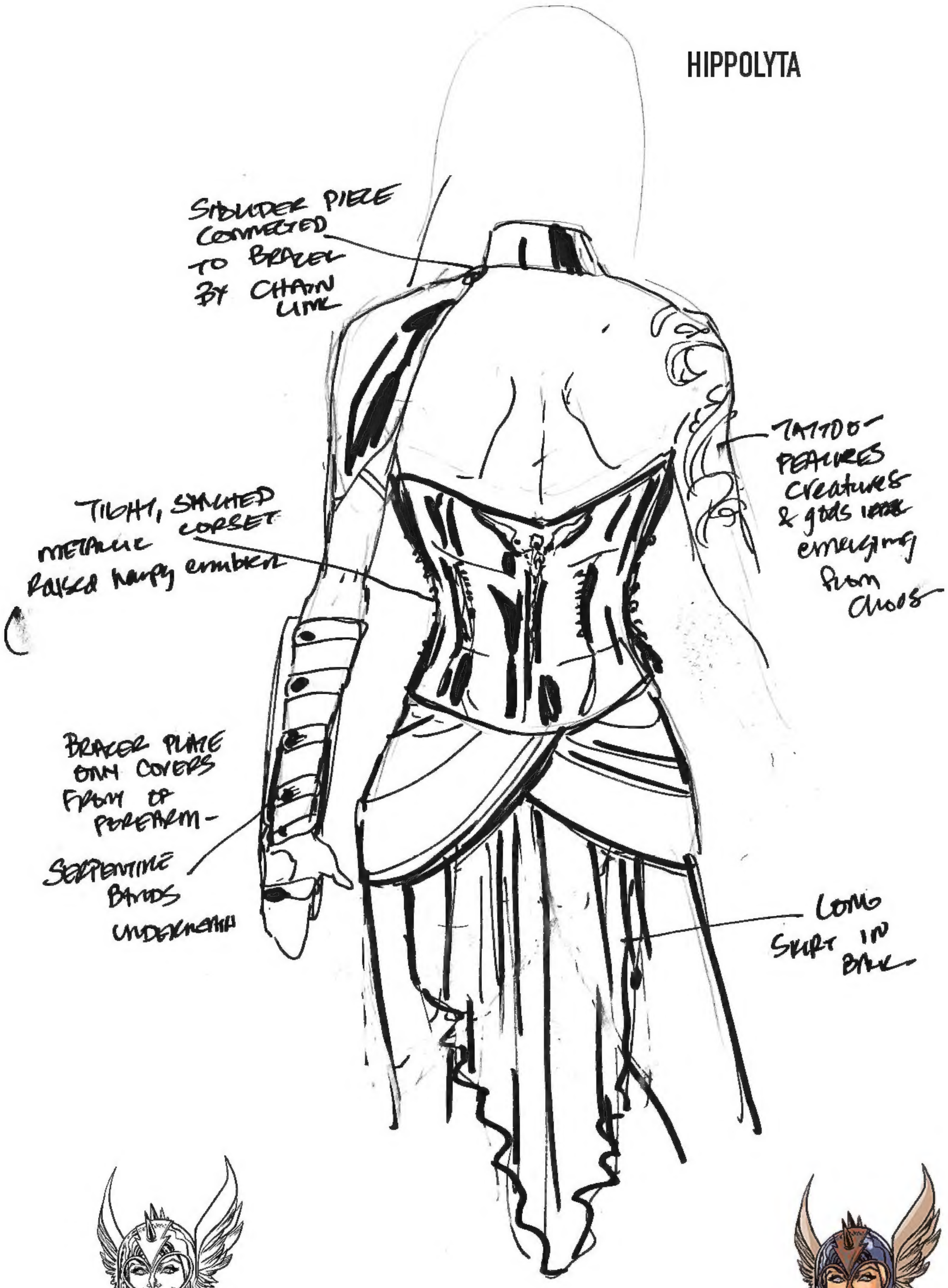
FEARLESS DEFENDERS #5 VARIANT BY AMANDA CONNER & PAUL MOUNTS

CHARACTER SKETCHES
BY PHIL JIMENEZ



HIPPOLYTA

HIPPOLYTA



VALKYRIE AS
RAGE MAIDEN

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA